

Last minute goal cleans up the Avenue

Walthamstow A. 3.

Wycombe W. 4

WYCOMBE WANDERERS sharpened their claws at Walthamstow on Saturday with a last-minute win in preparation for their revenge battle with mighty Enfield at Loakes Park on Good Friday.

For the first meeting between the clubs this season, Wycombe made one change to the published team, with Vince Faulkner taking over from Len Worley, who was substitute.

From the start the lively ball on a flat, firm pitch seemed to be spoiling the game. But Wycombe settled quicker and were proving a menace to the Avenue.

It was 15 minutes before Avenue managed a shot at goal, when a good midfield build-up found Brian Jackson on the edge of the area, and his chip over the defence was well met by Welsh international, Norman Dawkins, running through. But he just failed to control the bouncing ball, which went behind for a goalkick.

Steady rain began to fall and after a time this had the effect of improving the game by deadening the bouncing ball.

After 29 minutes, Wycombe took the lead, when Avenue were caught in their own offside trap. As a Wanderers' defender was carrying the ball up, the Walthamstow defence moved up, but his final pass was deflected by a home back to Faulkner, who ran clear to score with a low drive.

Four minutes later, Avenue were level when a Collett free kick floated across goal to be well headed in by Roseman.

Both goalkeepers were in constant action and playing well. But it was obvious that Wycombe were hungry for points.

However, five minutes before half-time, Munn chased down the left wing to keep a 'hopeless ball' in play and his pin-point centre was hit first time on the turn by Collett who beat Maskell in brilliant style to take an interval lead.

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After seven minutes of the second period, Wycombe equalised when the home defence was caught flat-footed for Busby to crack home a ground shot.

The match was fast, keen, clean and well controlled by Mr. Sutcliff, of Rainham, and the pace was maintained well despite a now slippery surface.

The 14th minute of the second half brought Wycombe's third goal. Faulkner received down the left wing and from an acute angle slid the ball across goal for it to slot in off the far post.

Far from finished, the Avenue equalised when Brian Jackson breasted down a cross from the wing and crashed a terrific drive into the net.

With the score now 3-3 it was cut and thrust all the way, and the Avenue nearly took the lead. Collett burst through the middle, but his shot crashed against Maskell as he advanced. It would have been easier to put the ball over the line.

Collett, however, regained possession and shot over an open goal.

Wanderers brought an exciting climax to the game when they scored a winner just one minute from time.

Horseman was challenged by Emerson and keeper Parsons on the edge of the area. Although Parsons at first saved the shot, it got away from him, and Horseman calmly placed the ball home.

Walthamstow: G. Parsons; B. Inkpen, D. Jackson; K. McEntaggart, M. Emerson, A. Colbert; B. Collett, M. Munn, B. Jackson, N. Dawkins, J. Roseman.

Wycombe: J. Maskell; L. Temel, C. Gale; J. Lalley, I. Rundle, D. Thomas; K. Samuels, B. Baker, V. Faulkner, A. Horseman, V. Busby.